

WYCOMBE HANG ON TO EARLY LEAD

Sports Mail Special Report

AN early goal and a lucky escape put Wycombe Wanderers on their mettle in their Isthmian League game against a reshuffled Barking side whom they defeated earlier in the season at Barking.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Bradshaw, Beck; Baker, Rundle, Lewis; Roystone, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Barking: White; Webster, Robertson; Ratty, Turner, Applebee; Murphy, Hilling, Fox, Craddock, Hanley.

Referee: A Coghlan (Erith).

Most of the early attacks came from Wycombe but one long-range drive by right half Ratty tested Maskell in the home goal.

Always conspicuous in the Wycombe advances, Horseman electrified the crowd with one brilliant solo run and a shot which sped right across the goalmouth.

Then in the 12th minute HORSEMAN put Wycombe ahead with a coolly-placed shot close in from a cross by Bates.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers, 1; Barking, 0.

There was still a notable lack of punch in Wycombe's

attacks in the second half and it was left to one of the back's, John Beck, to show the way with a solo run up field and a powerful drive which went only inches wide.

Then 11 minutes after the restart CRADDOCK equalised for Barking when he bundled the ball over the goal line after Maskell had saved a hot shot from Ratty.

Four minutes later BATES broke away for Wycombe on the left wing and restored the home side's lead at the second attempt after his first shot had been smothered by the goalkeeper.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS	2
BARKING	1